



USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region 5



October 19, 2012

Key Messages

Region 5 Forest Plan Revision: Assessment Phase

1. Region 5 of the US Forest Service and the Inyo, Sierra and Sequoia National Forests are preparing to revise forest plans for these three forests.
2. Forest plans provide strategic direction to guide the management of forest resources over a 10-15 year planning period.
3. The planning process involves three stages: assessment of forest resource condition and trend, development of a revised plan, and monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of plan direction.
4. During the fall of 2012, the region has been preparing for forest plan revision on the early adopter forests and will begin formally in January 2013.
5. Resource planning will be completed at a scale appropriate to the issue at hand. Some issues are best dealt with on a regional level while others at a national forest level. Region wide conditions and trends will be addressed in a Bioregional Assessment, i.e. an evaluation of resources to identify issues that cut across National Forests in the Sierra Nevada, southern Cascades, and Modoc Plateau. Forest-level conditions and trends will be addressed in three separate assessments, one for each of the three national forests.
6. The assessments will consolidate existing information and discuss social, economic, and ecological conditions and trends.
7. The Bioregional and Forest Assessments are expected to be completed in late December 2013.
8. Revising the Forest Plans, including the environmental review, will begin in 2014 following the completion of the assessments.
9. Region 5 is committed to collaboration and strengthening the role of public involvement and dialogue throughout the planning process. Five Collaboration and Communication Plans are being developed in conjunction with stakeholders: one for each of the three national forests, one at the bioregional scale and another specific to Tribes. Each plan is unique and based on the needs of the communities served. Plans will outline decision-making roles, opportunities for working together collaboratively, and communication tools. The Forest Service will post Collaboration and Communication Plans at the end of December.

10. Region 5 recognizes the value and importance of engaging Tribes early and throughout the assessment and plan revision process. Responsible officials will undertake consultation with federally recognized Indian Tribes in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
11. The Region is working with the Pacific Southwest Research Station to integrate scientific information across disciplines to inform decisions throughout the planning process. The Science Synthesis will be completed in early January 2013.